

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 7th February 1925.

The House met at 11 o'clock, Mr. President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur L. D. SWAMIKANNU PILLAI Avargal, C.I.E., I.S.O.) in the chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—]

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed classes.

Scholarships for depressed class pupils studying commercial subjects.

* 204 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ten scholarships of the value of Rs. 4 each a month for commercial subjects are intended for all commercial subjects or for a particular subject, as per answer given to question No. 1102 at the meeting of the Council, dated the 23rd October 1924;

(b) whether there is any differentiation in the award of scholarships for commercial subjects for lower and higher grades;

(c) if not, whether the Government intend or propose to make any differentiation in the award of scholarships for commercial subjects for the lower and the higher grades;

(d) how many applications were received from the members of the depressed classes for industrial subjects, together with their names and the institute in which they are undergoing training in the special line; and

(e) how many of them were awarded scholarships for the current year?

A.—(a) The scholarships are intended for pupils of the depressed classes who study commercial subjects such as book-keeping, commercial correspondence and banking.

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(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) & (e) Seven applications were received from the pupils of the depressed classes and their names are

(1) B. R. Sarangapani.	(5) Sankaradoss.
(2) Selvanayagam.	(6) A. F. Solomon
(3) T. Audipathan.	(7) D. D. Fell.
(4) J. V. Sivapragasam.	

Six of them were awarded scholarships and they are undergoing training in the Pudupet Convent School of Commerce, Madras.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I know whether banking, commercial geography and shorthand are not included in the list of commercial subjects?"

Mr. G. F. PADDISON:—"Banking is already included in the answer to clause (a). I think that shorthand is a technical subject."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"What I want to know is this. Commercial geography also is a technical subject; and are not scholarships intended for students reading that subject also?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Does the hon. Member suggest that commercial geography is not included in the curriculum of the schools in which these pupils are reading?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"All that I want to suggest is that scholarship must be given also to students who study commercial geography."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"The answer to clause (a) is that scholarships are given to students who study commercial subjects such as book-keeping, etc. The list is not exhaustive."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"If it is not definitely mentioned, Government may turn round and say that it is not one of the commercial subjects."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member wish to suggest that no scholarship is given for commercial geography? If not there is no reason for putting this question. As the hon. the Home Member pointed out the list is not exhaustive."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know the reason for not making any distinction between the lower and the higher grades?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I don't think it has ever been suggested to Government that there is any reason for making such a distinction."

Inspection of the elementary education of the depressed classes.

* 205 Q.—**Mr. R. VEERIAN:** Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to appoint a special District Educational Officer or officers to deal with the elementary education of depressed class boys and girls in the Presidency;

(b) the principle on which special deputy inspectors of schools were appointed to look after the elementary education of Muhammadans;